AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

What is claimed is:

1 (currently amended) A method of inhibiting Vif multimerization in a subject ~~by~~ comprising administering an effective amount of a Vif antagonist to the subject, wherein the Vif antagonist binds to the multimerization domain within a Vif protein, and the Vif antagonist is a peptide comprising a PXP motif.

2. (withdrawn; currently amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the Vif antagonist is an anti-Vif antibody; or a Vif protein fragment which comprises at least SEQ ID NO: 25; ~~or a peptide comprising a PXP motif~~.

3. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein the Vif antagonist is an anti-Vif antibody.

4. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein the Vif protein fragment is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO: 23, and SEQ ID NO: 26.

5. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the Vif antagonist is an analog or derivative of a Vif protein fragment which comprises at least SEQ ID NO: 25.

6 (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the Vif antagonist is a chimeric protein comprising a Vif protein, or a chimeric protein comprising a Vif protein fragment which comprises at least SEQ ID NO: 25.

7. (canceled).

8. (currently amended). The method of claim [7] 1, wherein X in the PXP motif is any one amino acid.

9. (currently amended). The method of claim 8, wherein the any one amino acid is selected from the group consisting of Arg, Val, Pro, Ser, Leu, Phe, Ala, His and Tyr.

10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein X in the PXP motif is any two amino acids.

11. (withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein the any two amino acids are Pro-Pro or Pro-Leu.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim [7]1, wherein the peptide[[s]] comprising the PXP motif is ~~are~~ 4 to 20 amino acids long.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein peptide[[s]] comprising the PXP motif is ~~are~~ 5 to 20 amino acids long.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein peptide[[s]] comprising the PXP motif is ~~are~~ 12 amino acids long.

15 (currently amended). The method of claim [[7]] 1, wherein the peptide[[s]] comprising the PXP motif is ~~are~~ selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO: 19, and SEQ ID NO: 20.

16 (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the Vif antagonist is a peptidomimetic of a peptide comprising a PXP motif.

17. (original). The method of claim 1, wherein the Vif antagonist is a molecule comprising one or more peptides comprising a PXP motif.

18. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the Vif antagonist is a molecule comprising one or more peptidomimetics of peptides comprising a PXP motif.

19 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the Vif antagonist is administered parenterally or enterally.

20 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the Vif antagonist is administered locally.

21. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the peptide comprising the PXP motif comprises the sequence SEQ ID NO: 11.

22. (new) The method of claim 21 wherein the peptide comprising the PXP motif consists of the sequence SEQ ID NO: 11.